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July 21, 1970

THE PRESIDENT

TALKING POINTS

Our purpose today is to take stock of the negotiating situation in Paris, now that Ambassador Bruce has been appointed, and to consider what our course should be over the coming months.

I will not make my decisions today but will announce them before Ambassador Bruce goes to Paris on August 6.

Some expect that we will propose dramatic new initiatives. Many also expect that, as an outgrowth of our successful operations in Cambodia, we will want to move toward a conference embracing all of Indo-China.

I want today to discuss what steps we should take both as to Vietnam and Indo-China talks, and the timing we should consider.

One of the principal questions we will face sooner or later is whether we should propose or accept a cease-fire and, if so, the procedural arrangements which we should seek.

I would like to begin our discussion with a briefing by Director Helms covering the North Vietnamese attitudes in Paris and on their attitudes toward the political situation in Vietnam, and then covering the military situation in South Vietnam and Cambodia.

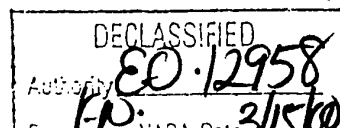
(Ask Director Helms to brief.)

— Now I would like Dr. Kissinger to summarize first the various cease-fire proposals and the related issues and then to outline the issues involved in proposals for diplomatic initiatives as a departure point for our discussion.

(Ask Dr. Kissinger to summarize cease-fire proposals and diplomatic initiatives.)

Following Dr. Kissinger's summary of cease-fire proposals and diplomatic initiatives, you should:

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- Call on Secretary Rogers for his views;
- Call on Secretary Laird for his views;
- Be sure that Ambassador Bunker and especially Ambassador Bruce have an opportunity to present their views.

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